

May 14, 2010

City of Ankeny  
410 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Ankeny, IA 50023

Re: Prairie Ridge Outdoor Lighting

Dear Mayor Van Oort and members of the Ankeny City Council,

My wife Roselyn and I were very surprised to read the May 13<sup>th</sup> *Des Moines Register* article on the proposed plan to add overhead tower lighting to the Prairie Ridge Girls softball complex immediately across the street from our residence. We have over the years supported efforts to improve Prairie Ridge as we feel it is a wonderful asset to the City of Ankeny. However we question whether this particular action will now compromise the livability our neighborhood.

We have been in our home since 1991, well before the development of Prairie Ridge. Since its inception, we have been willing to put up with increasing traffic and noise on Ash Street, Wagner Boulevard and Maple Street. More recently as the number of softball, baseball and soccer tournaments have increased, so too has spill-over parking on our residential street, with people cutting through our yard and increased litter (candy wrappers, juice boxes, energy drinks).

Now we can no longer peacefully sleep-in with our windows open on Saturday or Sundays due to early morning pre-game practices with the constant 'tinging' of aluminum bats immediately behind our home. Often this activity begins as early as 7:30 AM on both weekend days. With this latest proposal you are now considering extending operations at this already intensely used complex, late into the evening eroding even further the adjacent residences opportunity to enjoy a restful sleep and peaceful neighborhood environment.

As a result we feel compelled to go on record as vehemently opposing this proposal.

It's time to for the Council consider our neighborhood's needs relative to those visiting our community. If you pursue this plan solely on basis of 'generating more revenue' perhaps the Council should consider re-zoning Prairie Ridge as a commercial enterprise whereby this action would be judged appropriately as a potential nuisance to our residential neighborhood. I would expect it would require the necessary public review and comment as for any type of land use change.

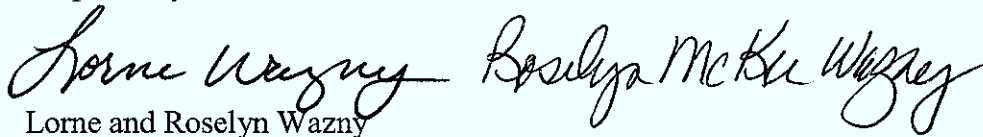
Enough is enough. Our local property taxes have continued to escalate the last several years in spite of the recession and declining property values since 2007. This facility 'enhancement' does

little to improve the value of adjacent Parkridge neighborhood homes or aid in their potential future resale.

Surely, the Council can find higher priorities for this City directed funding beginning with street repair after the recent winter.

If you choose to proceed with the plan to install lighting directly behind our home, we petition that you pass a complementary strict ordinance requiring that no new inning shall be allowed to start after 10 PM and lights are extinguished at 10:30 PM sharp regardless of the score or progress of the game. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this important Council decision.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Lorne and Roselyn Wazny in cursive script.

Lorne and Roselyn Wazny  
1010 NW Maple Street  
Ankeny, Iowa 50023